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# League of United Latin American Citizens

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Marlene H. Dortch  
Secretary  
Office of the Secretary  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12th Street, SW, CY-B402  
Washington, DC 20554

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

**Re: WC Docket No.: 02-307**  
**Application by BellSouth Corporation to Provide In-Region, Interlata Services in the States of Florida and Tennessee**

Dear Ms. Dortch:

The League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC), the nation's largest and oldest Hispanic organization, would like to express its support for BellSouth's application to provide long distance service in the states of Florida and Tennessee.

As you know, our mission is to empower the Hispanic community, promote the advancement of youth, improve education, and create a better quality of life through our advocacy on social, civic, economic and political issues. LULAC has long been an advocate of increased competition in the long distance market as evident by our previous filings in support of RBOC applications.

Better long distance rates, packages and services is a priority for LULAC because Hispanics continue to use long distance services at twice the rate of the national average. Since many Hispanic Americans maintain close relationships with family and friends abroad, lowering the cost of monthly long distance bills is important to managing household expenses. That is why we are pleased with BellSouth's two new highly competitive international calling plans that reduce the rates for customers who call a single country frequently and which waive monthly fees for high-volume international calling. These offerings are a fine example of competition and choice at work!

LULAC members in Florida and Tennessee deserve to benefit from BellSouth's entry into the long distance market. BellSouth's new international plans, simple rates and high-quality customer service will also help them to engage in one-stop shopping and benefit from more options. We have no doubt that as a result of BellSouth's entrance into the long distance markets of Florida and Tennessee, competition will be healthy as competitors serve the 1.6 million customer lines.

Finally, LULAC believes that increased competition in the telecommunications marketplace will also encourage investments in the development and deployment of advanced, high speed Internet services to residential customers. As you know, broadband service is currently available and heavily marketed to business customers, disproportionate to residential customers. We believe BellSouth's entry into the long distance will foster an environment where all broadband providers will be challenged to go the extra mile and close the new technology divide.

LULAC supports BellSouth's entrance into the long distance market in Florida and Tennessee and we urge the FCC to quickly approve their 271 application.

Sincerely,

Hector Flores  
National Director

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